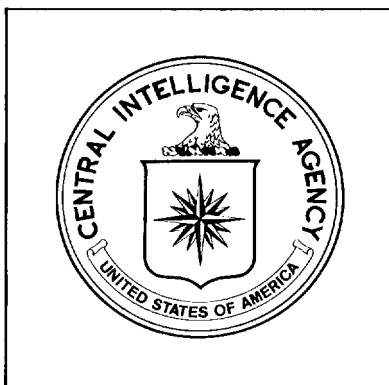


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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Continuing Impasse on Documents for
European Communist Conference

Another "sharp division" of opinion marked last week's meeting in East Berlin of the working group that is drafting documents for the conference of European Communist parties.

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the meeting had left the Soviet, East German, and Danish parties at odds with the Yugoslav, Italian, French, Romanian, and Spanish contingents. The five independent parties adamantly oppose any wording in the proposed documents that could later be used to bind individual parties to joint actions under Soviet direction. If the French party, [redacted] [redacted] has joined those opposing the Soviets, the tide is running against Moscow.

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[redacted] that although no compromises have developed, all sides--including the Soviets--want to reconcile differences. He said that the Soviets continue to push "unacceptable issues" mainly as a bargaining tactic in the protracted preparations, which he said could drag on through the end of the year.

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[redacted] the Yugoslavs believe Moscow will make further compromises on the subject of binding documents to gain broader attendance at a European meeting.

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Belgrade's media have been silent thus far on the results in East Berlin, suggesting that the Yugoslavs do not at this time want to make a public issue over the differences. Since the Berlin session, however, Belgrade has criticized both the Czechoslovaks and the Soviets for pushing their program in other forums. The Yugoslavs have taken particular aim at prominent Soviet party officials Mikhail Suslov and Boris Ponomarev for using the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Comintern's Seventh Congress to attack the Chinese and to call for "monolithic" unity of all Communist parties.

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Soviet Union - Singapore Joint Fishing Venture

The Soviet Union and Singapore established a \$12-million joint commercial fishing venture last month. Participation in the new company, Marisco, will allow the Soviets to expand operations in the western Pacific and eastern Indian Ocean where Soviet fishing has been minimal.

Marisco will supply fish and other seafood products to Singapore and other markets. Singapore also will serve as a bunkering and ship-repair facility for Soviet fishing ships. The Soviets approached Indonesia and the Philippines to set up facilities for ship repair, but Manila rebuffed the offer, and Indonesia's decision is pending.

Joint venture schemes have been of major importance in the expansion of Soviet fishing operations; at least seven have been established to date. Moscow not only acquires use of much-needed port facilities and the right to fish in coastal waters of other countries, but also has a ready market for its fish products. Moreover, the USSR will be able to commit a part of its oversupply of fishing support ships to the joint-venture fleet as an element of its contribution to the new company.

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